

November 21, 2014

Ms. Verneta Simon United States Environmental Protection Agency Region 5 77 West Jackson Blvd Chicago, Illinois 60604

Re: 30-Day Status Report #3 (Ending November 21, 2014) Streeterville Area 545 North McClurg Court (Part 1A) & 410 East Grand (Part 1B) AKA Lindsey Light OU14 Chicago, Illinois 60611

Dear Ms. Simon:

The current status report describes relevant limited site activities between October 21, 2014 and November 17, 2014 as described below.

## Summary of Limited Screening Activities – October 21, 2014

The onsite construction activities have begun. General construction activities have been carried on well as planned. On October 21, 2014, RPS GaiaTech and RSSI were called back to screen fill materials beneath the side walk near the corner of north McClurg Court and Grand Avenue. The screening work was conducted in accordance with the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) approved Work Plan. A trench was dug beneath the side walk in the north direction from the corner of McClurg Court and Grand Avenue for the purpose of placing temporary power lines (see attached map). The trench was 60 feet long and was the width of the sidewalk, 4 to 5 feet wide with the excavation going down to a maximum depth of 3 feet. RSSI was present with RPS GaiaTech personnel to screen the soils and Walsh construction provided the excavator excavation. RSSI used meter 149080 and performed background readings prior to screening (Background 2,000 Counts Per Minute). The following range of measurements was recorded from the surface to 3 feet below grade, from 3,000 to 5,200 CPM, all which were below the action limit, corresponding to 7.1 pCi/g. All screening activities on the area were completed in one day (October 21, 2014) and no thorium impacts were detected.

### Summary of Limited Screening Activities – October 27, 2014

RPS GaiaTech and RSSI were called back to screen fill materials during the removal of the old retaining wall on the north side of the subject Site on October 27, 2014. The old retaining wall located on the north side of the property along East Ohio Street was removed by Walsh due to proximity of caisson emplacement (see the attached map for the location). The wall was 1.5 feet thick and went down to 8 feet



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below grade. The soils (sands) were screened behind the wall upon removal. Each section was screened upon removal. RSSI was present with RPS GaiaTech personnel to screen the soils and Walsh construction provided the excavator excavation. Walsh informed GaiaTech that the western 30-foot section of wall from the corner of McClurg and Ohio did not need to be removed as there are no caissons in that area. A total of 70 feet of wall has been removed and screened. Three (3) concrete caisson/pile caps were located beneath the wall which was two (2) foot thick. These caps went from below the wall at 8 feet to 10 feet below grade. The caps were destroyed and soils around and under the former caps were surveyed for potential thorium. Prior to cap destruction the tops of the caps were surveyed professionally (land survey). RSSI used meter 149080 and performed background readings prior to screening (Background 2,400 Counts Per Minute). The following range of measurements were recorded from the surface to 8 feet below grade by 5 foot wide sidewalk panels from 5,000 to 7,000 CPM, all which were below the action limit, corresponding to 7.1 pCi/g. Additionally, the areas around the three caisson/pile caps were screened and each area had readings less than 5,000 CPM. All screening activities on the area were completed in one day (October 27, 2014) and no thorium impacts were detected.

## Summary of Limited Screening Activities – November 11-13, 2014

A 25 foot long by 6 foot wide trench was excavated by Walsh, six inches from the center line of the eastbound lane on the south side of East Ohio Street, heading south to the edge of the curb (see attached map for the location). RPS GaiaTech and RSSI were called back to screen fill materials for the task. The trench continued an additional 20 feet to the south into the Site, beneath the sidewalk, but the width from this point was 11 feet from the curb to the southernmost end of the excavation. The purpose of the excavation was to attach 6 and 12 inch sewer feeder lines to the sewer main located 10.5 feet below grade running from east to west below East Ohio Street. Generally, the bottom of the excavation was at 10.5 feet below grade with the north and south end of the excavation going down to 12 feet below grade. A total of 6 utility lines, including three electric and three telecom/phone lines, were found at varying depths (from 3 to 6 feet) and lengths along the excavation to the north of the sidewalk into East Ohio Street. The soils were excavated with a small backhoe and by hand digging over the 3-day period. All soils were screened from the excavation as soils were slowly removed due to the proximity of the buried utility lines. RSSI was present with RPS GaiaTech personnel to screen the soils and Walsh provided the excavator excavation. RSSI used meters 149080 and 149073 and performed background readings prior to screening (Background readings for both meters varied by day 2,100-2,300 CPM for meter 149080 and 2,500-3,000 CPM for meter 149073). The following range of measurements was recorded from the surface to 12 feet below grade, from 4,000 to 7,000 CPM, all which were below the action limit of 7.1 pCi/g. All screening activities on the area were completed in the 3 days and no thorium impacts were detected.

### **Dust Control**

Due to consistent rains and excavations at the Site producing mud, during the periods of screening/excavation activities, the soils remained wet and dust was not a concern.



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# **Remaining Scope of Work**

Screening for additional sidewalk areas and utility street cuts will be conducted at a future date. USEPA will be notified when these activities are to be scheduled.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact John H. Yang at 312-262-4330.

Sincerely,

**RPS** GaiaTech

John H. Yang, PG Vice President

cc: Eugene Jablonowski – USEPA

Matt Nygren – Golub & Company

Daniel Swartzman - Schoenfield, Swartzman & Massin

Attachments

Figure 1 – Soil Screening/Excavation Areas

